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Application No.: 09/640,787

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:

Brendan Larder, Sharon Kemp, Stuart Bloor and Ann Brophy Confirmation No.: 7344

Application No.: 09/640,787

Group Art Unit: 1648

Filing Date: August 18, 2000

Examiner: Ulrike Winkler

For: Method for Mutation Detection in HIV-1 Using POL Sequencing

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

DECLARATION UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.132

I, Paula McKenna, declare as follows:

1. I hold the position of Director Diagnostic Lab Operations Virco BVBA (Virco), Generaal de Wittelaan 111/3, B2800 Mechelen, Belgium.
2. Prior to my position as a director at Virco BVBA, I spent five years in clinical drug development with Johnson and Johnson Europe.
3. I received my Ph.D. in virology from Queen's University of Belfast, N. Ireland. A copy of my *curriculum vitae* is attached as Exhibit A.
4. I spent three and a half years as a postdoctoral fellow at The Belgian Zoonosis Workgroup studying epidemiology of Hantaviruses. I have over three years of experience in amplicon generation and sequencing.
5. I have read and am familiar with the contents of the above-reference patent application. I further understand that the nature of the rejection at issue in the pending application is that the examiner believes that the pending claims are obvious in view